

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 01014 191204 Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /113 W

----- 089454

R 191045 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2170

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1014

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MOPS UG

SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES ON ALERT

REF: KAMPALA 989 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GENERAL AMIN HAS TOLD ALL MILITARY TO RETURN TO BARRACKS BECAUSE HE HAS HEARD OF ANOTHER INVASION THREAT. SOLDIERS MUST BE AVAILABLE IN EMERGENCIES. GENERAL ALSO RAILED AT MILITARY FOR BAD BEHAVIOR AND RUINING GOOD NAME OF UGANDA. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER WEEKEND, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNT, PRESIDENT AMIN SPOKE TO NINE THOUSAND TROOPS (PROBABLY SHOULD BE NINE HUNDRED) AT MALIRE MECHANISED REGIMENT. HE OFFICIALLY PUT ARMED FORCES ON ALERT AND TOLD ALL COMMANDERS TO MAKE SURE THOSE SOLDIERS NOW LIVING IN HOUSES ABADONED BY ASIANS RETURNED TO BARRACKS. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT TROUBLE WAS IMMINENT AND HE ALLUDED TO LAST YEAR' S INVASION. AMIN ORDERED THAT SOLDIERS MUST NOT LIVE OUTSIDE BARRACKS BUT MUST BE AVAILABLE IN CASE OF TROUBLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KAMPAL 01014 191204 Z

WM AMIN WENT ON TO ISSUE SEVERAL WARNINGS TO SOLDIERS. HE TOLD THEM TO QUIT MISUSING GOVERNMENT VEHICLES; TO STOP DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSES; TO CEASE TAKING CARS FROM THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS; NOT TO INTERFERE WITH COURTS OF JUSTICE; NOT TO MAKE ILLEGAL ARRESTS OF INNOCENT PERSONS; TO STOP CONFISCATING COMMODITIES WHICH ARE SCARCE, SUCH AS BEER; AND TO SET GENERAL EXAMPLE OF QTE DISCIPLINE, SMARTNESS, CLEANLINESS AND DIGNITY UNQTE, FOR YOU ARE QTE MASTERS OF UGANDA UNQTE. GENERAL THREATENED THAT SOLDIERS WHO DON' T ABIDE BY THESE RULES WILL BE PUNISHED.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO CORROBORATION THAT AN INVASION THREAT EXISTS. AMIN APPEARS TO BE CONCERNED OVER HIS LACK OF CONTROL OVER TROOPS, WHO NOW RESIDE THROUGHOUT KAMPALA AND OTHER CITIES, AND THIS MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO GET TROOPS UNDER CONTROL. SOME OF AMIN'S OTHER RECENT REMARKS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) INDICATE HE MAY ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT COUP AND/ OR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND MAY BE TRYING TO HEAD THAT OFF. AS FOR HIS WARNINGS TO TROOPS, THEY WILL BE WELCOMED BY ALL. SOLDIERS ARE INDEED GENERALLY GUILTY OF ALL EVILS AMIN ENUMARATED, AND LIFE WOULD BECOME CONSIDERABLY EASIER IN KAMPALA IF SOME CONTROLS WERE PUT ON THEIR ACTIONS. REMOVING THEM FROM KAMPALA WILL OF ITSELF BE GREAT HELP. BY LISTING ALL THESE WRONGDOINGS OF HIS SOLDIERS, AMIN SEEMS TO BE ADMITTING THAT THINGS ARE SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONTROL. HE TRIED TO COUNTER THIS IMPRESSION AT END OF HIS SPEECH BY SAYING ALL THIS IS DUE, AFTER ALL, TO ONLY QTE ONE OR TWO UNQTE SOLDIERS. THERE MAY ALSO BE HINT THAT PUBLIC TOLERANCE IS REACHING ITS END, FOR AMIN ALSO TOLD SOLDIERS TO STAY TOGETHER, ALWAYS WALK IN GROUPS OF TWO TO FIVE, SO IN CASE QTE ANYTHING WENT WRONG WITH ONE, OTHERS COULD EXPLAIN UNQTE.

KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL01014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailpf.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KAMPALA 989 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980107
Subject: ARMED FORCES ON ALERT
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, UG
To: AF
DAR ES SALAAM
KIGALI
LONDON
NAIROBI
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005